

20. (Five Times Amended) A method of ameliorating an erythrocyte sedimentation rate or C-reactive protein level in a patient in need of such amelioration, comprising identifying the patient in need of such amelioration and administering to the patient an erythrocyte sedimentation rate or C-reactive protein level activity ameliorating effective amount of erythropoietin over a period.

*#2*  
Please add new claims 32-35 as follows:

--32. (New) The method of claim 18 wherein the patient suffers from rheumatoid arthritis.--

*#3*  
--33. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein the patient suffers from rheumatoid arthritis.--

--34. (New) The method of claim 18 wherein the treatment period is 3 to 6 weeks.--

--35. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein the treatment period is 3 to 6 weeks.--